

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



A weekly update for residents, visitors, and workers in the District of Columbia

Friday, October 14, 2005

MPDC STEPS UP EFFORTS TO COMBAT ROBBERIES; ENHANCED REWARD PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Facing a sharp increase in robberies in recent weeks, Chief Ramsey this week announced a new effort to reverse this trend, including an enhanced reward program for individuals who turn in robbery offenders. Over the past 30 days, robberies have increased by approximately 40 percent Districtwide, when compared with the same 30-day period last year. Robbery is the only crime category that has increased thus far in 2005, rising by almost 3 percent. While there have been increases in robberies in all seven police districts, the Third District has been particularly hard hit: preliminary statistics show there have been almost 900 robberies in 3D so far this year. In response, the Department has formed a "robbery squad" that is supporting and supplementing ongoing efforts by PSA and tactical officers in the Third District. Because most robbers are career criminals, one focus of the new squad is identifying and arresting robbery suspects who currently have outstanding arrest warrants, as well as monitoring of previously convicted robbers who are out in the community on probation or parole. The squad is also working to link open robbery cases, with the goal of identifying the most active offenders and closing multiple cases. Members of the squad are also responding to new cases, to assist with the initial investigation, and they are promoting information sharing among all members of the Department who are investigating robberies in their communities. During a news briefing with the Mid City Business Association, Chief Ramsey announced the new citywide robbery reward program: up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a robbery suspect, and up to \$10,000 if the crime involved serious injury to the victim.

- ① Individuals who have information about known robbers are encouraged to call the MPDC's 24-hour command center at (202) 727-9099.
- ① For tips on how to reduce your risk of being a victim of robbery or assault, visit: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547781,mpdcNav_GID,1551.asp

FIRST CLASS OF SENIOR CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATES

The MPDC, in partnership with the DC Office on Aging, saluted the inaugural class of the District's Senior Citizens Police Academy this past week during a graduation ceremony at One Judiciary Square. Thirty-three seniors who completed the 12-week training program were recognized by Chief Ramsey, Office on Aging Executive Director E. Veronica Pace and other local officials. Announced earlier this year, the Senior Citizens Police Academy program gives seniors a chance to learn about the operations of the MPDC, develop problem-solving skills, become ambassadors in their communities and volunteer to help prevent crime in DC neighborhoods. The program encompasses both classroom and "hands-on" experiences, including target practice at the MPDC firing range and a ride-along with an officer. As part of the graduation ceremony, the seniors pledged to support community policing and other public safety efforts in their communities as citizen leaders. "While this part of the program is now over, the hard work begins," said Chief Ramsey. "We are counting on you – and, more importantly, your neighbors and your communities are now counting on you – to go back and apply what you learned in this Academy to improve the safety of your communities." Participants in the Senior Citizens Police Academy must be age 50 or older, a District of Columbia resident, willing to complete the entire program and consent to a background check. There is no cost to participate in the program. The next Academy class begins in March 2006.

- ① Complete information about the Senior Citizens Police Academy, including an application form, is available at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,556706.asp>

AFTER A MONTH OF ISSUING WARNINGS ONLY, MPDC ACTIVATES THREE NEW PHOTO ENFORCEMENT CAMERAS

After a month of sending out warning notices only, the MPDC on Saturday, October 15, 2005, begins issuing tickets to motorists caught driving aggressively by three new photo enforcement cameras. Two new stationary photo radar cameras are targeting aggressive speeders in the 600 block of New York Avenue, NE (westbound), and the 3400 block of Benning Road, NE (westbound). One additional red-light intersection safety camera — on Florida Avenue, NE, at New York Avenue (northwest bound) — is also being activated. This new red-light camera is in addition to two other cameras that are already ticketing violators at this intersection: southeast bound on Florida Avenue, NE, and westbound on New York Avenue, NE. The three new cameras were turned on September 15, 2005, but have been generating only warning notices since then. Beginning Saturday, October 15, aggressive speeders or red-light runners caught by the new cameras will receive Notices of Infraction in the mail. While photo-enforced violations do not carry points in the District, the fines for speeding range up to \$200 per violation and the fine for running a red light is \$75. The latest cameras are the last elements of an expansion plan that the MPDC announced earlier this year. The District now has 49 red-light camera locations, 10 stationary photo radar cameras, and a fleet of 12 mobile photo radar vehicles.

3D, MT. PLEASANT COMMUNITY ANNOUNCE “OPERATION LIVE LINK”

Leaders of the Third District and the Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Alliance have launched a new initiative to reduce crime by improving communications between the police and residents. The mission of “Operation LiveLink” is to strengthen police-community relations by creating a direct line of communication between the police officer and citizens. Under the program, both foot patrol and scout car officers who patrol in Mt. Pleasant have been provided with cell phones. Residents who see suspicious or criminal activity, a wanted criminal, or have some other pertinent crime information can “live link” directly to an officer on patrol in Mt. Pleasant, between the hours of 6 and 10 pm. There are three easy steps for Mt. Pleasant residents to use LiveLink: 1) call 9-1-1 or 3-1-1 first — officers on patrol in Mt. Pleasant will not take any information until 9-1-1 or 3-1-1 is called and an official record generated; 2) identify yourself to the officer with your full name; 3) describe the suspicious activity, crime or wanted person, keeping the call brief. Armed with the information, along with details provided through the dispatcher, officers will be able to respond more effectively to calls. Operation LiveLink is a Project 365 initiative, part of the National Night Out program. For details, contact the Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Alliance at (202) 246-5113.

NEWS & NOTES

Wreathlaying Day at Law Enforcement Memorial. On Monday, October 17, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) holds its annual “Wreathlaying Day,” a ceremony that commemorates the dedication of the Memorial in 1991 and pays special tribute to DC-area law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty during the current year. Sixteen officers — including James McBride and Reserve Officer Joseph Pozell of the MPDC — have made the ultimate sacrifice in 2005. Details on the ceremony at: <http://www.nleomf.com/media/press/wreathlaying05.htm>

Smooth Operator 2005 Results. The MPDC issued nearly 92,000 citations for aggressive driving during this summer’s Smooth Operator campaign, an increase of about 70 percent over the 2004 figure. Regionally, more than 390,000 citations and warning were issued during the four enforcement waves of the 2005 Smooth Operator campaign. Details on the MPDC’s role are at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,Q,547928,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,1,asp

① Read the full news release at:
<http://app.mpdc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=187000>

① DC’s photo enforcement programs have contributed to dramatic reductions in aggressive driving. Get more information at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,Q,548131,mpdcNav_GID,1547,asp

① For more information on 9-1-1, 3-1-1 and other MPDC hotlines, visit:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547641,mpdcNav_GID,1554,asp

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 10/14/05

- ◆ 2005: 150
- ◆ 2004: 156
- ◆ % Change: -3.8%
- ◆ Closure Rate: 54.7% (82 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 10/8/05

- ◆ Total: 835
- ◆ Drugs: 158
- ◆ Weapons: 22
- ◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 15
- ◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 32

Juvenile Activity week end. 10/8/05

- ◆ Arrests: 62
- ◆ Curfew Violations: 58
- ◆ Truants: 116

Firearm Recoveries as of 10/12/05

- ◆ October: 68
- ◆ 2005 Total: 1,858

Traffic Fatalities as of 10/14/05

- ◆ 2005: 37
- ◆ 2004: 38
- ◆ % Change: -2.6%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to KEVIN MORISON, MPDC’s Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with Crimereports.com.

mpdc.dc.gov